

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,  
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

|                                                             |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and )       | RESPONSE TO     |
| Otter Tail Power Company for an Energy Facility Permit to ) | OBJECTIONS OF   |
| Construct the PowerOn Midwest Project Consisting of a )     | APPLICANTS &    |
| 765-kV Transmission Line, a 345-kV Transmission Line )      | CERTIFICATE OF  |
| and Associated Facilities )                                 | SERVICE         |
|                                                             | <b>EL26-026</b> |

The LAKE COCHRANE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (LCIA or “Proposed Intervenor”), now responding to the objection interposed by Applicants NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, doing business as XCEL ENERGY, and OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY, dated October 14, 2026, whereby said Applicants ask the Commission to deny LCIA’s petition for party status.

Applicants’ denial seems premised on the concept that LCIA does not reside within the area where the Project is to be sited, and thus cannot be a directly interested person. LCIA now wishes to provide some additional detail as to what it is – and who it represents - as a non-profit South Dakota entity.

LCIA (Secretary of State File NS) was organized in 1978 for the purpose of “maintain[ing] and improv[ing] Lake Cochrane and the surrounding area for the benefit of persons owning property along the Lake, for the benefit of the general public, and to prevent the destruction [sic] of a great natural resource.” Today, the nonprofit corporation continues those efforts with the participation of approximately two hundred (200) members, all of whom have residential properties “along the Lake,” with addresses on Edgewater Drive, Lake Cochrane Drive West, Dakota Trail, Lakeview Lane and Scott Drive, all in the immediate proximity of Lake Cochrane. The Lake is in the northeast corner of Norden Township (Sections 4, 5, and 8, primarily), a site some six (6) or seven (7) miles south and slightly west of Gary, South Dakota.

Perhaps this added detail will help Applicants locate Lake Cochrane on their route maps. Enjoying yet another scenic lake might be no big deal to the Applicants or their counsel over in Minnesota, but LCIA tells no tall tales when it boldly asserts this much: Lake Cochrane – and the protection of that lake - is itself a big deal in the environs of Deuel County, South Dakota.

While Matt Holden, presently a director and an officer of LCIA, has a permanent mailing and residential address in Sioux Falls (as noted by Applicants), the fact remains – Matt Holden and his family also have a residential property at Lake Cochrane, but are unable to reside at the lake full-time, year-around. Applicants obviously know how to contact Matt Holden on behalf of LCIA – Exhibit 1, attached is a scan of the mailer recently received from PowerOn Midwest.<sup>1</sup> The intended intervention of LCIA – on behalf of its members - in this matter has also been approved by the LCIA Board of Directors.

*Undersigned*, as counsel for LCIA, Proposed Intervenor, certifies that on the date below entered, a true and correct copy of the Response to Objections of Applicants, as stated above, was served by electronic mail on the following parties of interest immediately prior to electronic filing with the PUC:

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants apparently hold the theory they *must* alert LCIA members about this application, but once alerted, LCIA itself could not possibly have sufficient property or representational interests to support party status. LCIA has been permitted party status in prior PUC proceedings based on representation of its members residing and having property interests at Lake Cochrane, in Deuel County, South Dakota.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: October 26, 2026

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